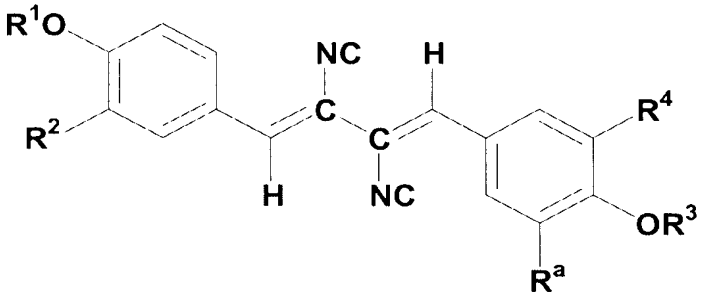
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): ~~A thrombopoietin receptor activator~~ A method of increasing platelets in a human, the method comprising administering an isolated compound or its salt to the human in an amount sufficient to increase the platelets in the human,

wherein the isolated compound or its salt is

represented by the formula (1) or its salt,



(1)

[~~wherein~~ wherein each of R^1 and R^3 is independently a hydrogen atom, SO_3H, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group or a C_{6-18} arylcarbonyl group, and

wherein each of R^2, R^4 and R^a is independently a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group;

[[(]] wherein the C_{1-6} alkyl group, the C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group and the C_{6-18} arylcarbonyl group may be optionally substituted with

a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a C_{2-6} alkenyl group, a C_{1-6} alkoxy group, a C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl group, a C_{6-18} aryl group, a 2-pyridyl group, a 3-pyridyl group, a 4-pyridyl group, a 2-furanyl group, a 3-furanyl group, a 2-thienyl group, a 3-thienyl group or NR^9R^{10}, ~~(the C_{6-18} aryl group, the 2-pyridyl group, the 3-pyridyl group, the 4-pyridyl group, the 2-furanyl group, the 3-furanyl group, the 2-thienyl group and the 3-thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a halogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group) or NR^9R^{10}~~

wherein the C_{6-18} aryl group, the 2-pyridyl group, the 3-pyridyl group, the 4-pyridyl group, the 2-furanyl group, the 3-furanyl group, the 2-thienyl group and the 3-thienyl group may be optionally substituted with

a halogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

wherein each of R^9 and R^{10} is independently a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group ~~(the C_{1-6} alkyl group may be optionally substituted with a C_{6-18} aryl group)~~ or R^9 and R^{10} mean, together with each other, $-(CH_2)_nX(CH_2)_m-$,

wherein the C_{1-6} alkyl group may be optionally substituted with

a C_{6-18} aryl group

[[( ]] wherein X is $CR^{11}R^{12}$, NR^{13}, O or S,

[[()]] wherein each of R^{11} and R^{12} is independently a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group, ~~(the C_{1-6} alkyl group may be optionally substituted with a C_{6-18} aryl group)), NR^{13}~~ [[()]] wherein R^{13} is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group that may be ~~(the C_{1-6} alkyl group may be~~ optionally substituted with a C_{6-18} aryl group~~)), O or S~~, wherein n is 1, 2 or 3, and m is 1, 2 or 3, provided that n+m is 3, 4 or 5~~))), and~~,

wherein the C_{1-6} alkyl group may be optionally substituted with

a C_{6-18} aryl group,

wherein R^{13} is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group, and

wherein the C_{1-6} alkyl group may be optionally substituted with

a C_{6-18} aryl group

~~each of R^2, R^4 and R^a is independently a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group]~~.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein in the isolated compound of ~~thrombopoietin receptor activator according to Claim 1~~ or its salt that is administered to the human,

~~wherein~~ each of R^1 and R^3 is independently a hydrogen atom, SO_3H, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group or a C_{6-18} arylcarbonyl group, and

[[(the]] wherein the C_{1-6} alkyl group, the C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group and the C_{6-18} arylcarbonyl group may be optionally substituted with

a hydroxyl group [[)]].

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein in the isolated compound of ~~thrombopoietin receptor activator according to Claim 1~~ or its salt that is administered to the human,

~~wherein~~ each of R^1 and R^3 is independently a hydrogen atom, SO_3H, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group or a C_{6-18} arylcarbonyl group,

wherein the [[(the]] C_{1-6} alkyl group, the C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group and the C_{6-18} arylcarbonyl group may be optionally substituted with NR^9R^{10},

[[(]] wherein each of R^9 and R^{10} is independently a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group, ~~(the C_{1-6} alkyl group may be optionally substituted with a C_{6-18} aryl group)~~ or R^9 and R^{10} mean, together with each other, -$(CH_2)_nX(CH_2)_m$-,

wherein the C_{1-6} alkyl group may be optionally substituted with a C_{6-18} aryl group,

[[(]] wherein X is $CR^{11}R^{12}$ ~~(wherein each of R^{11} and R^{12} is independently a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group (the C_{1-6} alkyl group may be optionally~~

~~substituted with a C_{6-18} aryl group))~~, NR^{13} ~~(wherein R^{13} is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group (the C_{1-6} alkyl group may be optionally substituted with a C_{6-18} aryl group))~~, O or S,

wherein n is 1, 2 or 3, and m is 1, 2 or 3, provided that n+m is 3, 4 or 5~~)))~~.

wherein each of R^{11} and R^{12} is independently a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

wherein the C_{1-6} alkyl group may be optionally substituted with a C_{6-18} aryl group,

wherein R^{13} is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group, and

wherein the C_{1-6} alkyl group may be optionally substituted with a C_{6-18} aryl group.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein in the isolated compound of ~~thrombopoietin receptor activator according to Claim 1~~ or its salt that is administered to the human, ~~wherein~~ each of R^1 and R^3 is independently a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 4, wherein in the isolated compound of ~~the thrombopoietin receptor activator according to~~ Claim 4 or its salt that is administered to the human,

~~wherein~~ each of R^1 and R^3 is independently a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, and

each of R^2 and R^4 is independently a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or a methoxy group.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method of ~~The thrombopoietin receptor activator according to~~ Claim 1, Claim 2, Claim 3, Claim 4 or Claim 5, wherein in the isolated compound or its salt that is administered to the human, ~~wherein~~ R^2 is a hydrogen atom.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 6, wherein in the isolated compound ~~thrombopoietin receptor activator according to Claim 6~~ or its salt that is administered to the human, ~~wherein~~ each of R^4 and R^a is independently a hydrogen atom or a methoxy group.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method of claim 1, wherein the isolated compound or its salt that is administered to the human is administered as a composition comprising the isolated compound or its salt and ~~preventive, therapeutic or improving agent against which activation of the thrombopoietin receptor is effective, which contains the thrombopoietin receptor activator according to Claim 1~~ an excipient ~~or a prodrug, pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as an active ingredient~~.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A platelet increasing agent containing the thrombopoietin receptor activator according to Claim 1, or a prodrug, pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as an active ingredient.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A platelet increasing agent containing the thrombopoietin receptor activator according to Claim 2, or a prodrug, pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as an active ingredient.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A platelet increasing agent containing the thrombopoietin receptor activator according to Claim 3, or a prodrug, pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as an active ingredient.

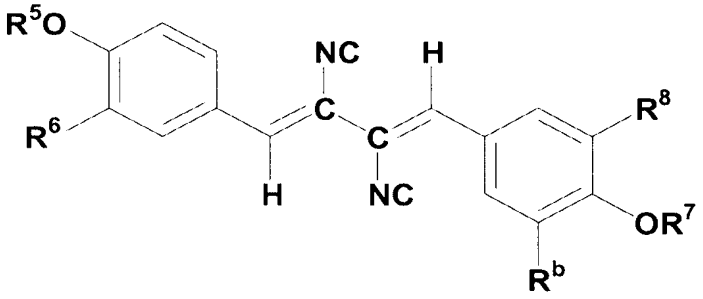
Claim 12 (Withdrawn): A platelet increasing agent containing the thrombopoietin receptor activator according to Claim 4, or a prodrug, pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as an active ingredient.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): A platelet increasing agent containing the thrombopoietin receptor activator according to Claim 5, or a prodrug, pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as an active ingredient.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): A platelet increasing agent containing the thrombopoietin receptor activator according to Claim 6, or a prodrug, pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as an active ingredient.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): A platelet increasing agent containing the thrombopoietin receptor activator according to Claim 7 or a prodrug, pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, as an active ingredient.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A process for producing [[a]] an isolated compound represented by the formula (2), or its salt, which comprises incubating a microorganism belonging to the Basipetospora genus and isolating the compound from the culture medium



(2)

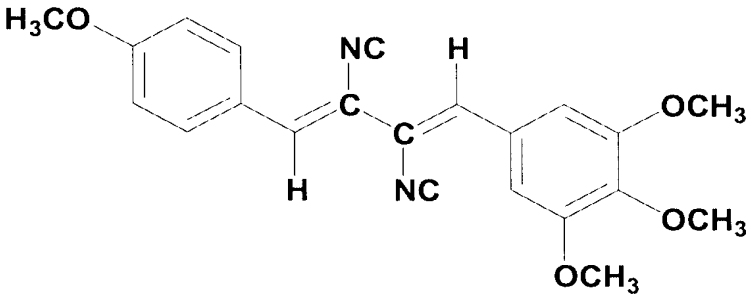
[[(]] wherein each of R^5 and R^7 is independently a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, and

wherein each of R^6, R^8 and R^b is independently a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or a methoxy group[[)]].

Claim 17 (Original): The process according to Claim 16, wherein the microorganism is Basipetospora sp.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): Basipetospora sp. strain No. 1142 which is deposited under accession number FERM P-18940.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A compound represented by the formula (3).

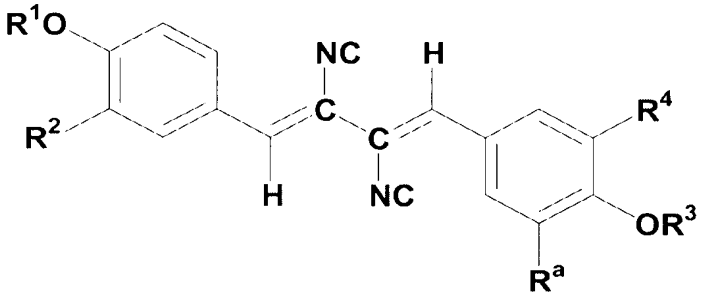


(3)

Claim 20 (New): A method of treating thrombocytopenia in a human, the method comprising administering an isolated compound or its salt to the human in an amount sufficient to treat the thrombocytopenia in the human,

wherein the isolated compound or its salt is

represented by the formula (1) or its salt,



(1)

wherein each of R^1 and R^3 is independently a hydrogen atom, SO_3H, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group or a C_{6-18} arylcarbonyl group, and

wherein each of R^2, R^4 and R^a is independently a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group;

wherein the C_{1-6} alkyl group, the C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group and the C_{6-18} arylcarbonyl group may be optionally substituted with

a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a C_{2-6} alkenyl group, a C_{1-6} alkoxy group, a C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl group, a C_{6-18} aryl group, a 2-pyridyl group, a 3-pyridyl group, a 4-pyridyl group, a 2-furanyl group, a 3-furanyl group, a 2-thienyl group, a 3-thienyl group or NR^9R^{10},

wherein the C_{6-18} aryl group, the 2-pyridyl group, the 3-pyridyl group, the 4-pyridyl group, the 2-furanyl group, the 3-furanyl group, the 2-thienyl group and the 3-thienyl group may be optionally substituted with

a halogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

wherein each of R^9 and R^{10} is independently a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group or R^9 and R^{10} mean, together with each other, $-(CH_2)_nX(CH_2)_m-$,

wherein the C_{1-6} alkyl group may be optionally substituted with

a C_{6-18} aryl group

wherein X is $CR^{11}R^{12}$, NR^{13}, O or S,

wherein each of R^{11} and R^{12} is independently a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group, wherein R^{13} is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group that may be optionally substituted with a C_{6-18} aryl group,

wherein n is 1, 2 or 3, and m is 1, 2 or 3, provided that n+m is 3, 4 or 5,

wherein the C_{1-6} alkyl group may be optionally substituted with

a C_{6-18} aryl group,

wherein R^{13} is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group, and

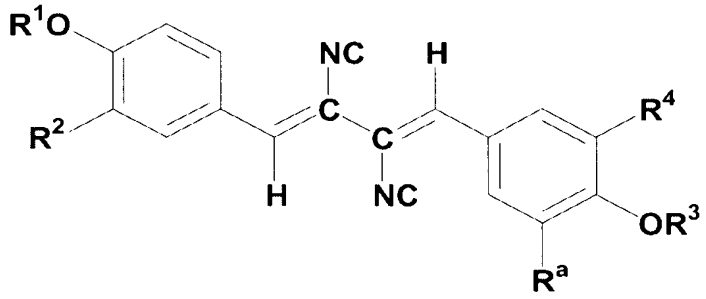
wherein the C_{1-6} alkyl group may be optionally substituted with

a C_{6-18} aryl group.

Claim 21 (New): A method of treating a disease in a human, the method comprising administering an isolated compound or its salt to the human in an amount sufficient to treat the disease in the human,

wherein the disease is selected from the group consisting of arteriosclerosis, myocardial infarction, unstable angina, peripheral artery occlusive disease, and combinations thereof;

wherein the isolated compound or its salt is represented by the formula (1) or its salt,



(1)

wherein each of R^1 and R^3 is independently a hydrogen atom, SO_3H, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group or a C_{6-18} arylcarbonyl group, and

wherein each of R^2, R^4 and R^a is independently a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group;

wherein the C_{1-6} alkyl group, the C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group and the C_{6-18} arylcarbonyl group may be optionally substituted with

a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a C_{2-6} alkenyl group, a C_{1-6} alkoxy group, a C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl group, a C_{6-18} aryl group, a 2-pyridyl group, a 3-pyridyl group, a 4-pyridyl group, a 2-furanyl group, a 3-furanyl group, a 2-thienyl group, a 3-thienyl group or NR^9R^{10},

wherein the C_{6-18} aryl group, the 2-pyridyl group, the 3-pyridyl group, the 4-pyridyl group, the 2-furanyl group, the 3-furanyl group, the 2-thienyl group and the 3-thienyl group may be optionally substituted with

a halogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

wherein each of R^9 and R^{10} is independently a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group or R^9 and R^{10} mean, together with each other, $-(CH_2)_nX(CH_2)_m-$,

wherein the C_{1-6} alkyl group may be optionally substituted with

a C_{6-18} aryl group

wherein X is $CR^{11}R^{12}$, NR^{13}, O or S,

wherein each of R^{11} and R^{12} is independently a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group, wherein R^{13} is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group that may be optionally substituted with a C_{6-18} aryl group,

wherein n is 1, 2 or 3, and m is 1, 2 or 3, provided that n+m is 3, 4 or 5,

wherein the C_{1-6} alkyl group may be optionally substituted with a C_{6-18} aryl group,

wherein R^{13} is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group, and

wherein the C_{1-6} alkyl group may be optionally substituted with a C_{6-18} aryl group.

Claim 22 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein the disease is arteriosclerosis.

Claim 23 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein the disease is myocardial infarction.

Claim 24 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein the disease is unstable angina.

Claim 25 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein the disease is peripheral artery occlusive disease.